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RESTRICTIONS LIFTED FOR SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY COMMUNITIES *Negative Testing Results Allow Residents to Return to Normal Activities*

FRAMINGHAM, MA – Following analysis of testing results within the communities in Southern Berkshire County impacted by the plume from the industrial fire in Ghent, NY, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Department of Public Health (DPH) have announced that all restrictions for residents within those 10 communities have been lifted. The results from the testing showed no evidence of contamination and now allows residents of the communities of Alford, Great Barrington, Tyringham, Monterey, Otis, Egremont, Mount Washington, Sheffield, New Marlborough and Sandisfield to return to regular, outdoor activities.

The overnight testing was completed and reviewed by members of the Massachusetts National Guard Civil Support Team (CST), Department of Fire Services (DFS) HazMat Teams, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Public Health (DPH) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man made. For additional information about MEMA and All Hazards Preparedness, go to the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema. Also, follow MEMA on *Facebook* and *Twitter*.